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None

(58) Field of search
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(54) Preventing corrosion

(57) A hydrazine solution with improved initial activity in relation to oxygen dissolved in water which has been activated by the addition of complexes of trivalent cobalt with inorganic ligands as complex-formers, contains 2-amino-4-nitrophenol and or 2-acetamino-4-nitrophenol as a coactivator.

GB 2 139 206 A

SPECIFICATION

Process for improving the initial activity of activated hydrazine

5 This invention relates to a process for improving the initial activity of hydrazine in relation to oxygen 5
dissolved in water, the hydrazine being activated by the addition of complexes of trivalent cobalt with
inorganic ligands as complex-formers.

Activated hydrazine is used as a means for the removal of oxygen from water, particularly from boiler feed
water and from water employed for preservation of idle plant, in order to prevent corrosion of tanks,

10 pipes, heat exchangers and other parts. 10

For the removal of oxygen dissolved in water various processes are employed. Preference is given to the
use of hydrazine, which even at low temperatures and with the addition of suitable activators, reacts with
oxygen dissolved in water to form hydrogen. Cationic and anionic complexes of trivalent cobalt, with
inorganic ligands as complex-formers, are proposed as particularly suitable activators (GB ref:39291). Even

15 if these activators are regarded as advantageous, they have a disadvantage in that hydrazine activated in this 15
way does not immediately reach its full reaction speed in relation to oxygen dissolved in water. The
drawback may be surmounted either by gasification with air or by the addition of trivalent phenols as
coactivators (GB ref:39274). These measures can improve the initial activity provided a relatively high
concentration of activator is maintained, amounting to 0.5 to 1 g per litre of commercial hydrazine solution.

20 For special applications, however, these activator concentrations, though satisfactorily effective in 20
themselves, may prove excessive in relation to the oxygen decomposition.

This invention seeks to improve the initial activity of activated hydrazine in relation to oxygen dissolved in
water and at the same time to reduce the activator concentration required when the activators employed
consist of complexes of the trivalent cobalt with inorganic ligands as complex-formers. The object of the
25 invention is to provide a suitable activator system which ensures that hydrazine solution with the said 25
activators in moderate concentration would immediately reach a high reaction speed in relation to oxygen
dissolved in water, this process not requiring gasification with air.

According to this invention there is provided a process for improving the initial activity in relation to
oxygen dissolved in water of hydrazine which has been activated by the addition of complexes of trivalent
30 cobalt with inorganic ligands as complex-formers, in which process the activated hydrazine solution 30
contains 2-amino-4-nitrophenol and/or 2-acetamino-4-nitrophenol as a coactivator.

Despite the fact that aminophenols with at least two nitro groups in the molecules are already known as
activators, although they have to be used in comparatively high concentrations (DE 2601466), it has been
found that neither 2-amino-4-nitrophenol nor a pure acetyl compound is satisfactorily effective when used as
35 an activator. 35

Surprisingly it has been found that aqueous hydrazine solutions when produced in a suitable manner and
containing the activators in the form of cationic or anionic complexes of trivalent cobalt with inorganic
ligands as complex-formers and at the same time containing small quantities of 2-acetamino-4-nitrophenol
or 2-amino-4-nitrophenol as coactivators, develop from the beginning of their action a fully adequate speed
40 for the decomposition of oxygen dissolved in water. This enables the activator content to be reduced to 40
below the value of 0.05 to 0.1% by mass in relation to the aqueous hydrazine solution, which is the usual
proportion in this group of substances, with 220 g N₂H₄/l.

High reaction speeds in relation to oxygen are obtained with hydrazine solutions containing, 0.05 to 0.5g/l
of cobalt complex as an activator and 0.05 to 0.25 g/l of 2-amino-4-nitrophenol or 2-acetamino-4-nitrophenol
45 as a coactivator. With a view to maximum use of metal complex compound, hydrazine solutions containing 45
0.05 to 0.5 g/l of sodium hexanitritocobaltate (III) and 0.05 to 0.25 g/l of 2-acetamino-4-nitrophenol mixed
with 2-amino-4-nitrophenol are particularly suitable.

Example

50 1 ml of an aqueous hydrazine solution containing 220 g of hydrazine per litre, and with an activator 50
consisting of 0.05 to 0.5 g/l of sodium hexanitritocobaltate (III) or cobalt (III)-hexamminochloride and a
coactivator consisting of 0.05 to 0.25 g/l of 2-amino-4-nitrophenol or 2-acetamino-4-nitrophenol or a mixture
of both compounds, is added to one litre of oxygenous water with about 6.5 mg O₂/l, of which the pH value
has been set to 10.4, the oxygen decomposition then being measured after 10 minutes. The temperature
55 amounts to 293°K. The following table shows, after a reaction time of 10 minutes, the oxygen decomposition 55
as a percentage in relation to the concentration of activator and of coactivator, compared with values
obtained in the presence of only one substance in each case in addition to hydrazine.

	$\text{Na}_3\text{Co}(\text{NO}_2)_6$ (g/l)	$\text{Co}(\text{NH}_3)_6\text{Cl}_3$ (g/l)	2-Acetamino- 4-nitrophenol (g/l)	2-Amino- 4-nitrophenol (g/l)	O_2 -Decomposition after 10 minutes (%)	
5	—	—	1	—	13	5
	—	—	0.5	—	9	
	—	—	0.25	—	3	
10	—	—	—	2	12	10
	0.05	—	0.05	—	88	
15	0.1	—	0.1	—	96	15
	0.25	—	0.25	—	97	
	0.5	—	0.25	—	98	
20	—	—	—	—	—	20
	0.1	—	—	0.1	89	
25	0.25	—	—	0.25	100	25
	0.05	—	0.05	0.05	86	
	0.1	—	0.05	0.05	99	
30	—	0.25	—	0.25	100	30
	—	0.25	0.25	—	100	
35	—	0.1	0.05	0.05	89	35
	—	0.05	0.05	0.05	78	
	—	1.6	—	—	70	
40	1.5	—	—	—	62	40

CLAIMS

- 45 1. Process for improving the initial activity, in relation to oxygen dissolved in water, of hydrazine which has been activated by the addition of complexes of trivalent cobalt with inorganic ligands as complex-formers, in which process the activated hydrazine solution contains 2-amino-4-nitrophenol and/or 2-acetamino-4-nitrophenol as a coactivator.
- 50 2. Process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the hydrazine solution contains 0.05 to 0.5 g/l cobalt complex as an activator and a mixture of 0.05 to 0.25 g/l 2-amino-4-nitrophenol and 2-acetamino-4-nitrophenol as a coactivator.
3. Process for improving the initial activity of hydrazine in relation to oxygen dissolved in water as described herein and exemplified.